

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00024 031610Z

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, PINT

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF NEW BLACK POLITICAL PARTY IN RHODESIA

REF: 76 PRETORIA A-230,

1. ACCORDING TO RHODESIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS, ON DECEMBER 29, TWO OF FOUR BLACK CABINET MEMBERS IN RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A NEW "MODERATE" PARTY, THE ZIMBABWE UNITED PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (ZUPO). THE PARTY IS LED BY SENATOR CHIEF JEREMIAH CHIRAU, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT IN MASHONALAND WEST AND CENTRAL. CO-ORGANIZERS WERE SENATOR CHIEF KAYISA NDIWENI, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT IN MATABELELAND NORTH AND SOUTH, AND TWO AFRICAN DEPUTY MINISTERS, FANI MLINGO AND ZEPHANIAH BAFANAH. THE ZUPO EXECUTIVE WAS ANNOUNCED AS CHIRAU, NDIWENI, AND S.A.D. CHIRENDA, J.A. HUNGWE, G.C. MAGARAMOMBE, N.J. MUTUMA, E.M. BADZA AND A.M. MPOFU, ALL UNIDENTIFIED. IN ANNOUNCING PARTY FORMATION, CHIRAU AND NDIWENI STATED THEY WOULD RESIGN CABINET POSITIONS BECAUSE

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 00024 031610Z

"THERE ARE LIMITATIONS TO WHAT WE CAN DO WHILE WE RETAIN THESE POSITIONS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES", AND BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO DEVOTE "ALL OUR TIME AND ENERGY" TO SERVING NEW PARTY. THEY ADDED THAT THEY WOULD RETAIN THEIR SENATE SEATS AND THAT MLINGO AND BAFANAH WOULD KEEP THEIR DEPUTY MINISTRIES AT PRESENT.

2. STATEMENT LAUNCHING PARTY SAID THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS FAILURE AND RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, BY STICKING TO "ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN", WAS UNABLE TO MAKE HEADWAY. GOVERNMENT IS CAUGHT BETWEEN APPEASEMENT OF "EXTREMISTS" OR "FRIGHTENING THE WHITES". TIME HAD COME FOR STRONG BLACK GROUP THAT "DOES NOT OWE ALLEGIANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ONE SIDE OR THE ANC ON THE OTHER, AND YET A GROUP WHICH WILL BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME". STATEMENT SAID ZUPO SUBSCRIBED TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, FREE ENTERPRISE AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE FREE WORLD. IT WOULD REPRESENT MAJORITY OF RHODESIANS AND ALREADY HAD "MANY SUPPORTERS FROM MUZOREWA AND NKOMO FACTIONS". FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS "ASSURED...FROM MANY QUARTERS".

3. SUBSEQUENT PRESS ACCOUNT STATED THAT ZUPO WOULD LEAD RHODESIA TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND THAT IT WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH THE RHODESIAN FRONT GOVERNMENT BECAUSE "IAN SMITH IS A HUMAN BEING...(AND) WANTS PEACE".

4. RHODESIAN PRESS REPORTED THAT NKOMO ANC OFFICE IMMEDIATELY SLAMMED NEW PARTY STATING IT "MERELY ANOTHER WING OF THE RIGHT-WING RHODESIA FRONT", AND THAT IT WAS FINANCED AND INSTIGATED BY RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. MUZOREWA ANC REPORTEDLY GAVE MORE GUARDED REACTION STATING THAT IT WOULD EXAMINE FACTS SURROUNDING NEW ORGANIZATION BEFORE COMMENTING BUT ADDING THAT IT WAS "VERY INTERESTING NEWS" THAT TWO MINISTERS RESIGNED THEIR CABINET POSTS TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH WORK OF THEIR NEW PARTY.

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 00024 031610Z

5. COMMENT: CHIRAU AND NDIWENI WERE TWO OF FOUR AFRICANS TO JOIN SMITH CABINET IN SPRING AFTER BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH NKOMO IN MARCH. THEY HAVE LONG BEEN LOOKED ON BY MORE MILITANT NATIONALISTS AS STOOGES OF GOVERNMENT AND FIRST REACTION HAS GENERALLY BEEN THAT THEY ARE STILL PLAYING THIS ROLE. ONE NEWS ACCOUNT MADE BIG PLAY OVER FACT THAT CHIEFS ARRIVED AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN GOVERNMENT CAR. HOWEVER, ATTEMPT BY BLACKS TO PUT TOGETHER MORE MODERATE ALTERNATIVES IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED. IN AUGUST A GROUP OF FORMER ANC PEOPLE LED BY REV. T.M. TIRIVANI AND DANIEL GURAJENA FORMED ZIMBABWE REFORMED AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ZRANC) BECAUSE OF THEIR DISILLUSIONMENT WITH ANC. WHETHER OR NOT IT IS GOVERNMENT BACKED, NEW ZUPO IS SAYING IN PRIVATE THAT IT WILL NOT FORM COLITION WITH SMITH PARTY AND THAT IT WILL BE INDEPENDENT. OUTSTANDING QUESTION IS NOT WHO GAVE LIFE TO ZUPO BUT RATHER WHETHER IT WILL HAVE ANY POLULAR APPEAL AMONG RHODESIAN BLACKS. EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT DOES NOT, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF ITS PRO-GOVERNMENT TAINT. BOWDLER

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